

YOUR SOCIAL CHANGE TOOLKIT

KEEP IN MIND:

Only you can decide how visible and vocal you wish to be. Speaking out about respect for transgender and gender-nonconforming students can lead to increased harassment or discrimination. It can also lead to a greater sense of empowerment and self-respect, and it may lead to changes that make your community safer for you and others. Each person must evaluate the potential risks and rewards in deciding which actions to take.

Start a conversation with parents and teachers about transgender issues.

Hold a community discussion or make a presentation to teachers, staff, the school board or the PTA.

Start a transgender students' group or trans-inclusive GSA to take the lead on transgender issues in your school.

Join or create a coalition with transgender advocacy groups in your community.

Draft a petition to show support for making trans-friendly changes in your school, and submit the petition to the principal or the superintendent.

Become a member of your school board, if it has student members, and create policy yourself.

Advocate for transgender issues with elected officials and school administrators. Call or write a letter to your city council representatives or state legislator and ask for a meeting to discuss transgender rights.

Start a campaign to have your local school board adopt policies and directives for transgender support in school.

Write a letter to the editor, an opinion article and press releases about your activities. Take advantage of free advertising in community listings.

USE SOME OF THE FOLLOWING IDEAS TO ADVOCATE FOR YOURSELF AND OTHER TRANSGENDER AND GENDER-NONCONFORMING YOUTH.

Create a poster campaign to advertise a meeting or rally or to raise awareness about your cause.

Raise money for your transgender education campaign by holding a party or performance, writing a grant proposal or selling artwork.

Distribute information about transgender issues to community members.

Get people together for a town hall meeting or community rally to promote transgender visibility or to protest transphobic policies.

Make T-shirts and give them away in exchange for donations to your campaign.

Write a poem or an article for your school newspaper.

Show a film or documentary about transgender rights, or make one of your own.

Set up an activist email network, start an email petition or join a chat group.

Lobby to change school policies to be inclusive of transgender students.

Hit the road and attend a conference or training on transgender issues. Find out if your school has a fund to help you pay for expenses.

Educate yourself about other forms of oppression, like racism, sexism, homophobia, classism and ableism.

